

CVAMC opens doors to PA Army National Guard for Post Deployment Health Reassessment Activity



On February 28, Coatesville VAMC opened our doors to hundreds of soldiers of the Pennsylvania 56th Stryker Brigade who returned to the states in August and September, 2009. They were here to complete a Department of Defense required Post-Deployment Health Reassessment Activity (PDHRA) which took place during their scheduled drill weekend. PDHRAs had also been taking place at all of the other VISN 4 medical centers in Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia VAMC, whose events took place the same weekend. In all, CVAMC hosted 317 soldiers.



The event gave soldiers the opportunity to work with health care providers to identify potential health issues and treat known health problems before they affect a person's future deployment status or career. According to DoD officials, many deployment-related health problems may not arise until three to six months after a soldier returns from deployment which is why the event was scheduled at this time.

"This is a great opportunity to partner with the VA and help these soldiers with their transition," said Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver, a Pennsylvania National Guard spokesman. "It's all about doing the right thing for them and linking them up with the support agencies they may need."

The program also provided an opportunity for these men and women to learn about and take charge of their VA health care benefits. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are entitled to five years of VA health care for conditions which may be related



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Community Based Outpatient Clinics offer health care services

If you are interested in hearing more about these clinics please discuss it with your health care provider or contact a member of the OEF/OIF team (contact information on the opposite page). Springfield and Spring City Outpatient Clinics' VA physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals provide many important outpatient services at these sites. Major emphasis is given to health needs assessment, primary medical care, mental health treatment, addiction therapy, wellness, preventive healthcare and education. Our compassionate and highly qualified staff provides quality care at the following locations.

Springfield VA Outpatient Clinic

Crozer Keystone Healthplex, 194 West Sproul Road
Suite 105, Springfield, PA 19064, (Entrance from parking
garage, ground level)
Phone: (610) 543-3246 or (610) 543-3726
Fax: (610) 543-1738

Spring City VA Outpatient Clinic

11 Independence Drive
Spring City, PA 19475
Phone: (610) 948-0981
Fax: (610) 948-1464

"The staff here is caring, considerate and compassionate. Any acute medical issues I had were taken care of promptly. I feel like I have been given the tools to battle my addiction head on and I feel life from here on out will be much better. The Substance Abuse Treatment Program really works if you work it. You guys took a person that I have absolutely despised for 30 years and made me fall in love with her."

Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran

ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

ENROLL NOW- IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES! You can inquire about your eligibility and enroll for benefits by visiting Room B10A in Building 2. You can also call 610-384-7711, extensions 5034 or 5008 if you have questions. Some of our clinics have evening hours on Wednesdays.

Check out these online resources:

www.oefoif.va.gov – A national resource for OEF/OIF Veterans.

www.paveterans.state.pa.us – A website that details what the State of Pennsylvania is doing for Veterans.

www.coatesville.va.gov – Coatesville VAMC
www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

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to their deployments. VA staff provided information on VA benefits, helped schedule follow-up appointments, and enrolled troops in VA health care.

"At VA, it is our job to reach each and every returning service member," said Gary W. Devansky, Coatesville VA Medical Center Director. "We are pleased to team with the Pennsylvania National Guard to make these soldiers' introduction to VA health care as beneficial as possible."

The soldiers are part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 56th

Stryker Brigade which has elements in Philadelphia and at armories across the state. Of the seven U.S. Army units assigned the Stryker mission, the 56th is the only one in the National Guard. The Iraq mission marked the largest Pennsylvania National Guard deployment since World War II. Thank you to the many employee volunteers who helped to run the event – there were 79 in all.

New Enrollee Orientation
You are invited to attend an orientation class
being held on:

DATE: 4th Thursday of every month

TIME: 1:30PM – 3:00PM

WHERE: Building 2, room 107A

If you have any questions,
please call 610-384-7711, x6226.

Fourth Annual Welcome Home Celebration

CVAMC's next Welcome Home Celebration will take place on Saturday, August 28, 2010. It will be a family fun event where returning service members can also learn about the VA healthcare system and what benefits they are entitled to and how to get them. If you have any questions, or would like to be involved, please contact Stacey Castel at extension 6817. More details will follow, but please mark your calendars!

Veterans Career Fair

June 4, 10am – 2pm
Coatesville VAMC
Building 5, Great Hall

Sponsored by
CVAMC and PA CareerLink

Join us for the Veterans Career Fair where you'll be face-to-face with many local employers such as UPS and Coatesville VA Medical Center. On-the-spot interviews will even be conducted in some cases. Also, CVAMC will have professionals on-hand to answer questions about enrollment and eligibility and start the process for Veterans who are interested.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to proudly represent yourself as a Veteran to potential employers.

Help Is Only A Telephone Call Away!

It takes the courage and strength of a warrior to ask for help...If you're in an emotional crisis call 1-800-273-TALK and Press 1 for Veterans.

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

COATESVILLE VAMC'S OPERATION ENDURING/IRAQI FREEDOM STAFF

Stacey Castel, Program Manager
610-384-7711, extension 6817

Alan Relland, Case Manager
610-384-7711, extension 6820

Schenay Miles, Case Manager
610-384-7711, extension 6851

Wendy Sherwin, Enrollment
610-384-7711, extension 5034

Deborah Eustice, Enrollment
610-384-7711, extension 5008

Rosalind Phillips, Program
Support
610-384-7711, extension 5160

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION

We have extended our hours of operation in the Mental Health Clinic. For additional information on evening hour appointments please call: 610-384-7711, extension 6833.

EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR COMBAT VETERANS

Currently enrolled Veterans who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003 are eligible for enhanced benefits for five years after discharge. If you would like more information, please call us at 610-384-7711, extension 5034 or 5008.

OEF/OIF Veteran Support Group

This support group meets every Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm in the Mental Health Clinic in Building 57, Room 149. Topics of discussion include adjustment to civilian life, feelings of anger and managing them, sleep difficulty including nightmares, anxiety issues, feelings of isolation, safety concerns, combat experiences, and coping strategies. For more information or to join the group, please contact Dr. David Inman at extension 6833 or Dr. Leanne Valentine at extension 6831.

OEF/OIF Group Announcement:

There is a PTSD Group for OEF/OIF Veterans at the Springfield Clinic in Springfield, PA. All Veterans who want to attend should go through their outpatient therapist. For further information call Sandra Chierici, Ph.D., at 215-543-3246